

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) Communications apparatus comprising:

a router and at least one connection controller, said router, in use, routing data to and from terminals on a local area network, and said connection controller controlling connections involving at least one of the terminals to another network;

a network address translation translator for translating incoming data addressed to a global address to local addresses of terminals on the local area network; and

a monitor for monitoring usage of [[of]] the local addresses and for sending a message indicative of non-usage to the connection controller; wherein

the connection controller is responsive to receipt of the message to determine whether to release the global address and a connection to another network; and

the network address translator includes a table the local addresses having associated use state data.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the connection to the another network supports a plurality of terminals on the local area network and the connection controller releasing the connection terminates the connection for all of the plurality of terminals to the another network.

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the monitor is an IP router.

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the connection operates in accordance with a point to point protocol (PPP) and at least one additional protocol.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the at least one additional protocol is one of a point to point tunneling protocol (PPTP) or a point to point protocol over Ethernet (PPPoE).

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the connection controller is an entity on the router.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the at least one connection controller is a software object.

26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein a plurality of respective connection controllers is provided, each controlling a respective connection.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a connection of a local area network (LAN) to another network comprising:

providing a router connected by ports to terminals on the LAN;

providing a connection controller for controlling a connection between the router and the another network;

translating, using a network address translator table, incoming data addressed to a global address to local addresses of terminals on the LAN;

monitoring, by a monitor, use of the ports;

recording the use of the local addresses in a the network address translator table; and

when the local addresses are unused, the monitor sends a message to the connection controller to release the global address and break the connection between the router and the another network.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the connection between the router and the another network supports applications running on the terminals on the LAN and when the connection controller breaks the connection between the router and the another network the connection controller terminates the connection for all of the applications running on the terminals on the LAN to the another network.

29. (Previously Presented) A router comprising:
a connection controller; and
a monitor coupled to the connection controller, the monitor comprising a network address translator with a global address and local addresses of a plurality of terminals on a local area network,

wherein the router is coupled by a first connection to another network,

wherein the router is respectively coupled by a plurality of connections to a the plurality of terminals on a the local area network,

wherein the monitor monitors usage of the local addresses and sends a message indicative of non-usage to the connection controller, and

wherein the connection controller is responsive to receipt of the message to determine whether to release the global address and the first connection to the another network.

30. (Previously Presented) The router as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first connection supports the plurality of terminals and the first connection controller releasing the first connection terminates the first connection for all of the plurality of terminals to the another network.